THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): Fgures of balances in the Non-Resident External Rupee Accounts and the Foreign Currency Non-Resident Accounts during the period February, 1991 to October 1991 are given below:—

(Figures in Rs. Crors.)

Period Ending	NRE	FCNR (US$)	FCNR (UK Stg)	FCNR (DM)	FCNR (Ycn)	TOTAL
28-2-91	7183	11104	275	1185	951	20698
31-3-91	7349	11270	305	1005	825	20754
30-4-91	7375	10992	367	855	626	20215
31-5-91	7393	11293	465	833	576	20560
30-6-91	7483	10642	526	761	528	19940
31-7-91	7490	12638	841	924	610	22503
31-8-91	7593	12307	1041	904	613	22431
30-9-91	7595	11844	1218	865	528	22050
31-10-91	7595	11469	1397	736	542	22006

Proposal to amend Representation of People's Act

445. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to amend the Representation of the Peoples Act to provide that the scheduled election in a constituency should be countermand only in the case of the death of a party nominee; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Yes, Sir.

(b) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990, which was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 30.5.1990 contains a provision to restrict countermanding of polls to cases of death of a candidate set up by a recognised political party.

Proposal for establishing High Court Benches in Thalassery and Thiruvananthapuram

446. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government have made any proposal for establishing High Court benches in Thalassery and Thiruvananthapuram; and

(b) if so, the date on which the proposals were made and what is the status of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) In their letter dated 2-4-85, the Government of Kerala stated that they had not taken at final view regarding the setting up of a Bench of the Kerala High Court. No further communication has been received from the State Government in this regard.

Prevention of non-serious candidates from fighting elections

447. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to deal with the problem of non-serious independent candidates who file nominations without any intention of contesting seriously but instead posing a threat to the entire electoral process;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard would be taken to keep away such independent candidates from contesting elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 1990 which is pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha contains certain proposals to discourage non-serious independent candidates from contesting elections. One such provision is to increase the security deposit in case of an independent candidate to 5000 rupees and in case of a candidate belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe to 2500 rupees. Another proposal is to provide State funding to a certain extent only to the candidates belonging to recognised political parties and not to any independent candidate. Incidentally it may also be mentioned that the Bill contains a provision that no election should be countermanded on the death of an independent candidate.

It is also proposed to make further indepth study in the matter as a part of general electoral reforms.

Setting up of additional benches of High Courts

448. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up additional benches of different High Courts; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to establish Benches of Gauhati High Court in the Capitals of Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh after